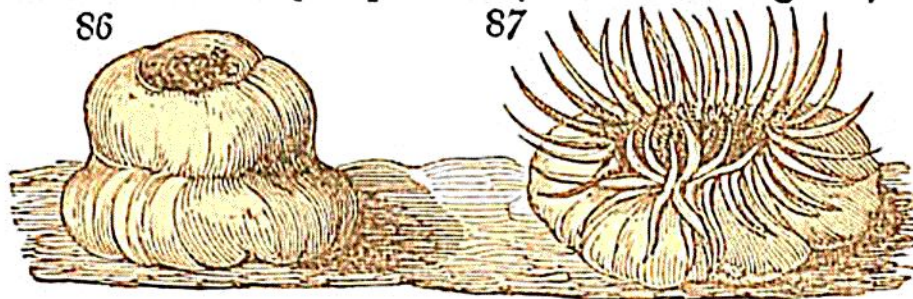


*sophora*, have several of these air-bladders; but in other respects resemble the ordinary *Medusæ*, in having no membranous crest.

The *Actiniæ* are a tribe of Zoophytes, which, from the general resemblance of their forms to those of *Polypi*, are by most naturalists included under that order. But they exhibit a much greater development in their organization; having very distinct muscular fibres endowed with strong powers of contraction. Their digestive organs, also, as I shall have afterwards occasion more fully to notice, are constructed upon a more complicated plan than in the polypus. Fig. 86 exhibits an *Actinia* in its contracted state. When their tentacula, which surround the mouth, and are very numerous, are fully expanded, (as shown in Fig. 87,) these



animals present a striking analogy of form to many of the compound flowers; and accordingly the particular species are named from these resemblances, the *sea-anemone*, the *sea-marygold*, the *sea-carnation*, the *sun-flower*, *daisy*, &c. *Actiniæ* are seen in great numbers on many shores adhering by their flat surfaces to rocks, and being generally permanently fixed to their abode. When the weather is fine, and the sea calm, it is very amusing to watch the rapid expansions and retractions of their many-coloured tentacula, while they are moving in search of food: to observe the quickness with which they seize on whatever prey comes within their reach, and to notice the suddenness with which they collapse into a round contracted mass, on receiving the slightest injury.

Yet these animals are not of necessity confined to the particular spots where we see them fixed; for they are capable, when disturbed, of seeking, by a slow progressive motion, a more secure abode. Reaumur has minutely examined the